RP exports still in decline, dipping 18.3% **BUSINESS** / B1

Thaksin visit fuels renewed tensions **WORLD** / A30

Fort Hood suspect contacted Islamist **WORLD** / A29

World leaders hail fall of Berlin Wall **WORLD** / A28

Wanted: 50,000 techies to man poll machines

By Kristine L. Alave

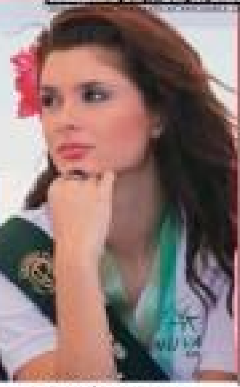
AT LEAST 50,000 INFORMATION TECHnology (IT) people are needed for the automated elections in May, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) announced yesterday.

Comelec Commissioner Gregorio Larrazabal said in a press briefing that the IT personnel would work for Smartmatic

WANTED/ A11

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, November 11, 2009 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 336 ₱18



EARTHY SEÑORITA Alejandra Echevarria Pedrajas of Spain takes a break from meeting with school children at the upscale Nuvali property development in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, on Tuesday. She is one of 80 candidates vying for Miss Earth 2009, a beauty contest with an advocacy to save Mother Earth.

Senate says GMA must be impeached

Recommends raps vs 11 others in NBN-ZTE deal



PRESIDENT ARROYO 'She did not do anything. That's very glaring.'



MIKE ARROYO 'Liable for conspiracy to defraud government for kickbacks'



BEN ABALOS A lot of people have already filed cases against us.



JOE DE VENECIA Caught in the battle of the elite.



JOEY DE VENECIA 'Never a whistle-blower...'



ROMY NERI I don't know how to react.



JUN LOZADA Accuser stands accused.

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo is "answerable" for the "stinking" $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) deal with China's ZTE Corp., according to a report by a Senate investigating panel led by the blue ribbon committee.

In the report that was made public yesterday at a press conference by blue ribbon chair Sen. Richard Gordon, the joint committee sought the impeachment of Ms Arroyo and the prosecution by the Ombudsman of 11 others, including her husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, for allegedly conspiring to defraud the government in exchange for "kickbacks" from the since scrapped contract.

Asked what impeachable offense Ms Arroyo had committed, Gordon said she had violated her oath of office which was a "culpable violation of the Constitution."

He cited Section 5 of Article 7, which provides that the President must "preserve and defend the Constitution, execute its laws, do justice to every man."

She should have "control" of all executive departments.

"Her acts in this case reveal that her performance of presidential duty has been wanting. Unfortunately you can see the litany of errors of the President. Apparently, she wasn't able to crack the whip on her people," said the senator.

Gordon said Congress could still impeach Ms Arroyo to strip her of immunity from suit as President.

"She has to explain and answer at

SENATE/ A10

What Went Before

IN SEPTEMBER 2007, BUSINESSman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, a cofounder of Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI), let loose with a blockbuster at a Senate hearing.

He said the $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) contract with China's ZTE Corp. was overpriced by about $130 million to cover kickbacks.

AHI itself was a bypassed bidder for the broadband project that was aimed at digitally connecting government agencies nationwide.

De Venecia, a son and namesake of the former Speaker of the House of Representatives, said that before the contract was signed in April 2007, Benjamin Abalos, then the chair of the Commission on Elections and the purported "captain" of the deal brokers, offered him $10 million in exchange for the withdrawal of AHI's broadband proposal.

During a Senate hearing on Sept. 18, 2007, De Venecia said that in a meeting with Abalos at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City, Presi

WHAT/ A10

Antismuggling group accused: 'Kidnaps' cargo for 'ransom'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ANTISMUGGLING Group (PASG) now means Philippine Abu Sayyaf Group.

A public hearing of the House committee on good government yesterday exposed an alleged multimillion-peso extortion racket by operatives of the PASG preying on importers.

Agapito Mendez, president of Professional Customs Brokers of the Philippines (PCBAPI), told the committee that for importers, PASG stood for "Philippine Abu Sayyaf Group" because its agents

ANTISMUGGLING/ A11

Road rage: Firm corners ₱1.5B in contracts

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Christine O. Avendaño

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE of Representatives are questioning how an obscure firm cornered a total of P1.5 billion worth of contracts to make road signs and guard rails mostly in Isabela and Bataan from the Department of Public Works and Highways' Road Board.

Based on documents furnished by several House members who requested anonymity, Meditech Trade and Development was awarded 77 contracts between 2007 and 2008 with an average cost of P19.5 million per project.

The San Juan-based company listed its general manager as John T. Tanajeck. Tanajeck was unavailable for comment while his assistant, a certain Juanito who refused to give his surname, refused to answer the Inquirer's queries over the phone.

Among the projects awarded to Meditech were a P14.45-million contract for 1-kilometer of traffic pavement markings in Antipolo City, P12 million for 1,200 pieces of guard rails in Palawan,

ROAD RAGE/ A10

Gunmen snatch four men in Basilan

By Julie Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao
and TJ Burgonio
in Manila

ZAMBOANGA CITY—WITH the shock still fresh over the beheading of a school principal in Sulu, gunmen in military uniforms were reported to have abducted four men in Maluso, Basilan.

Some 30 gunmen stormed a plywood factory early yesterday and seized Jerry Tan; Michael Tan, 27; Oscar Tan Lo, 51; and Mark Singson, according to Rear Adm. Alexander Pama, commander of the Western Mindanao Naval Forces.

Senior Supt. Abubakar Tu-

GUNMEN/ A6

Pacquiao a 3-to-1 favorite in Las Vegas to beat Cotto

By Francis T.J. Ochoa
Assistant Sports Editor

LAS VEGAS—AS TEAM PACquiao drove into this brightly lit vice city on Monday night, the odds continued to climb in favor of the Filipino ring icon in his historic fight against Puerto Rican champion Miguel Cotto on Nov. 14 at the MGM Grand.

Betting lines at sports houses have Manny Pacquiao a -350 favorite and Cotto a +270 underdog when they dispute the WBO welterweight crown at a catch weight of 145 pounds.

That means it would take a $350 bet on Pacquiao to win $100, while a $100 wager on Cotto would fetch $270.

Pacquiao, the reigning pound-for-pound king hoping to become the first boxer to win world titles in seven weight categories, is also heavily favored to knock out Cotto. To win $100 on such a proposition, one would have to place a $200 bet.

Now used to adulation and acclamation, Pacquiao isn't putting any of that into his head.

"I don't want to think that I'm a favorite," he said.

PACQUIAO/ A21



This one's for Ripley's: RP up in fight vs graft

By Jerry E. Esplanada

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THE PHILIPpines is improving in its fight against corruption.

At least that's according to Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, who cited an assessment made by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), a US foreign aid agency involved in fighting global poverty.

THIS ONE'S/ A10

Take over oil industry, senators urge GMA

By Christine O. Avendaño, Christian V. Esguerra and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WARNING OF FOOD RIOTS and a stagnating economy should a fuel shortage occur because oil firms were not importing new stocks, three senators yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to take over the oil industry.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago also asked the government to import petroleum products to protect the people.

The three senators said government intervention was needed to address the fuel shortage brought about by oil firms protesting a controversial Palace order that imposed fuel price caps in Luzon, which is in a state of calamity because of the heavy damage wrought by recent storms.

Accusing oil firms of engaging in "muscular politics," Santiago said the government should take over the oil companies.

She said Pilipinas Shell Corp., Petron Corp. and Chevron were trying to pressure the President "to do as they wish." The question now, she said, was "how intrepid and brave our President can be in standing up against the three oil companies."

The Constitution allows a

TAKE OVER/ A10

WEATHER FORECAST

[illegible]

Second FRONT PAGE



EZ2

19 13 | 16 23 | 29 25

SIX DIGIT

0 5 1 2 4 9

SUERTRES

3 7 5

0 4 3

4 8 6

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN

1 2 8 12 13 41

P10,564,490.80

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

9 10 20 26 31 41

P34,303,147.20

Church: Stop aerial spraying

MANILA ARCHBISHOP GAUDENCIO CARDINAL ROSALES AND other Metro Manila prelates have asked President Macapagal-Arroyo for an executive order permanently banning aerial spraying in banana plantations in Mindanao after a Court of Appeals ruling allowed the practice to continue.

[illegible]

Diseases, allergies

[illegible]



ROSALES: Seeks EO against aerial spraying

[illegible]

Davao City ordinance

[illegible]

With a report from Inquirer Research

Visit farms, banana growers ask bishops

[illegible]






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20 lbs off...
and this is just the beginning.
Weight Loss: 20 lbs
Inch Loss: 30.25 inches
"I was 165 pounds after giving birth to my second baby. Compared to my first post-baby body, I was 19 pounds heavier. I got much bigger problem areas. I thought, 'Oh my gosh, my body's like a tub of lard!' But in less than 3 months of slimming program, I've already lost 20 pounds and 30.25 inches, only at Marie France. This is just the beginning. Their treatments are very effective talaga! To all those who have been watching and waiting for my weight loss, and others who have remained skeptical – Look at me now!"
Call 894-BODY (2639)
marie france



3,000 OFWs in prison worldwide, says DFA

By Jerry E. Esplanada

SOME 3,000 OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS are languishing in jail in OFW-hosting countries around the world, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

About 75 percent of them face immigration-related charges and are "expected to be deported after serving their brief sentences," said DFA spokesperson Ed Malaya.

"The rest are in custody for committing common crimes, including theft and drug trafficking," Malaya said.

In the Middle East alone, 62 OFWs are detained on drug-related charges. Forty-three of them, mostly women, are in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Jail visits

Philippine diplomats personnel "conduct constantly jail visits to look after the welfare of the Filipinos in jail."

"The approval of jail visitation in some countries, however, depends on the host government," Malaya said.

Philippine missions "also maintain working [illegible] contacts in countries where there are large concentrations of Filipinos, in cooperation with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration."

In Saudi Arabia, the Department of Labor and Employment maintains four Philippine Overseas Labor Offices—in Riyadh, Jeddah, Al Khobar and Buraida.

Contrary to published reports, both the DFA and DOLE "regularly report [to] Congress on the inventory of overseas Filipinos," Malaya said.

Many still unaccounted for

But an alliance of OFW organizations in the Middle East yesterday disputed the DFA's estimate of 3,000 OFWs in jail abroad, saying it "could be far less than the actual number."

"Many are still unaccounted for, including victims of abuse, maltreatment and rampant labor malpractices… [illegible] abuse forces many OFWs, especially domestic and construction workers who comprise 80 percent of OFWs in the Middle East, to run away from their erring employers," said John Leonard Monterona, Migrante Middle East coordinator.

The nongovernment Blas Ople Center and Training Institute in Quezon City on Monday asked the foreign office to "conduct an inventory of OFWs in jail and set more frequent visits to monitor their condition and ensure their protection."

The center cited the case of an OFW who "has been jailed in Saudi Arabia on a drug-related case without a court ruling."

"Susan Pineda, 38, wrote the center seeking legal assistance after being jailed for one year and nine months on a drug-related charge without a sentence. He has appeared before the court four times without a lawyer because he does not have the means," the center said.

No bail

According to the Philippine embassy in Riyadh, Pineda was "detained at the [illegible] jail in March 2008 for allegedly receiving 21.2 grams of methamphetamine (shabu) and selling it to fellow OFWs."

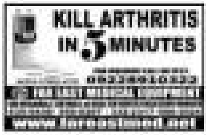
Pineda "allegedly confessed to the commission of the crime," said the mission, quoting Saudi authorities.

"Mr. Pineda remains in detention since under Saudi law, bail is not granted to persons involved in drug-related cases," the embassy reported to the home office.

One jailed OFW, meanwhile, is going home soon.

The DFA's Migrant Workers Affairs office is making arrangements for the repatriation of Jose Jonathan Rigos, imprisoned on a drug-related offense, from Saudi Arabia.

"Mr. Rigos finished serving his term in August 2009 but due to administrative procedures involving the Saudi court and the Governor's Office, he remains in jail," the DFA said.

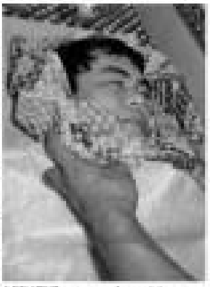






Misuari condemns beheading of Jolo head teacher

Gunmen snatch 4 men in Basilan



'Very aggressive' pursuit

'Lesson for everybody'

Peace process in talks

The Daily Gospel

Despite typhoons, El Niño is here

Corrections

MANILA TALKS

Hillary asked to tackle killings with GMA

Erap waves at accuser he doesn't know

House agrees to grant Pagcor tax exemption

Even with promise of talks, tribes still oppose Laiban Dam

Arrest warrant for Legacy owner

CA upholds airing of Makati narc's entrapment

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS upheld the ruling of a Quezon City court allowing the news program "Imbestigador" to show the entrapment operation against an antinarcotics agent who allegedly extorted money from suspected drug suspects in 2008.

Chief Insp. [illegible] of the Makati Anti-Drug Abuse Council had asked the QC Regional Trial Court to issue a temporary restraining order on "Imbestigador's" showing of his arrest by National Bureau of Investigation agents in August 2008.

[illegible] argued that those who accuse him of extortion weren't interested in proving their case in court but were using the media to conduct a "libelous trial by publicity against him."

QC Judge [illegible] on Sept. 5, 2008, denied the petition for a TRO on the "Imbestigador's" showing of the entrapment and averred upholding the show's rights of freedom of speech and expression.

"Imbestigador" aired the NBI operation against [illegible] on Sept. 6, 2008.

The appellate court noted that the case was already moot since the episode was already shown on television.

The court, however, still ruled on the merits saying the "Imbestigador" episode didn't violate his rights.

"The showing by private respondents of the subject 'Imbestigador' episode does not undermine petitioner's right to be presumed innocent until the contrary is proved," the court said. [illegible]

Senate says GMA must be impeached

Very glaring

GMA did something

Proper use of oversight







Ombudsman wrong

Battle of elite

Almost a year

In aid of reelection?

What Went Before

Bribe for Neri

Lozada's dawn presscon

Executive privilege

Why Joey is no whistle-blower

Take over oil industry to protect the people, senators urge GMA

Don't blackmail gov't

Seize facilities

Artificial

State of calamity under review

Price manipulation

Lawyering for oil firms

Lakas gives up on Loren as VP


LEGARDA

Working coalition

Right time, right message

Fake condoms from China

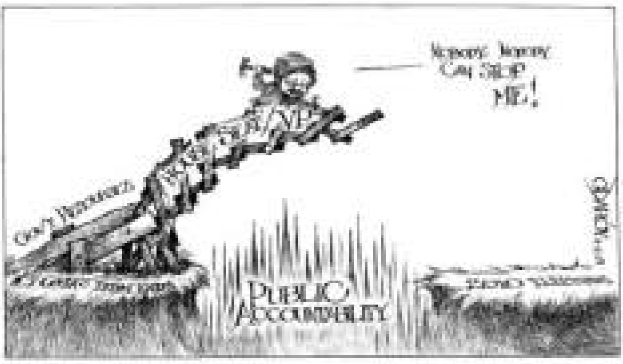

BALANGA CITY NOW TOP BIRD WATCHING SITE

INQUIRER

OPINION

Deadly efficiency

EDITORIAL



The sad state of Laguna de Bay

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

Platform

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

Playing with fire

ANALYSIS



Amando Doronila

[illegible]

It sucks to be poor

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

[illegible]

Luna's murder remains unsolved

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

[illegible]

'Barang'

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

[illegible]

Denial

[illegible]

Stigma

[illegible]

Talk on elections

[illegible]

Unnatural way of making friends

LETTERS

Open defiance of a covenant



Estrada continues to be vilified through unflattering cartoons

New buildings not real gauge of governance

Nothing new in Kabalu's offer to help rescue priest

Across the NATION

Sierra Madre yields illegal logs again

NEWSBRIEFS

Boy's death discovered

Number coding enforced

Oversized ballot feared



Cops say 4 NPAs robbed

3 towns share landfill

LUCENA CITY—MILITARY and provincial environment watchdogs seized some 10,000 board feet of logs believed to have been illegally cut from the Sierra Madre mountain ranges in the coastal town of Mauban, Quezon, early Tuesday.

Alias 'Rosalyn'

Transshipment points



Polls grip Benguet execs amid post-storm task

By Delmar Cariño

'Rido' seen in slay of former vice mayor

4 cops slain, 1 seized in Sorsogon NPA attack

Policemen in patrol car run into land mine planted by rebels in remote village road



STURDY PLACE

Court junks libel case filed by SBMA vs Palafox

'This is a pleasant surprise. It's like a thorn has been taken away...'

Danding Negros party men free on choice of bet

Bulacan pols ditched by Lakas seek new team

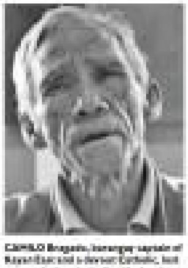
INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Tragedy brings two faiths together

ONE PITCH-DARK SATURDAY night, devout Roman Catholics of Barangay Kayan East in Tadian, Mt. Province, underwent a spiritual cleansing process called the "daw-es," under the supervision of the province's elders.

'We think the rituals would bring us some peace of mind'





All black

Village legacy

Climate change

Unexpected

Return to normalcy



TRUE FRIENDS



DANCE TIME



THE ACCUSED MEETS HIS ACCUSER



FILIPINO HERO



STILL LOOKING

This one's for Ripley's

Matter of technicalities

'Significant improvements'

Passing marks

High-impact projects

Road rage: Firm corners ₱1.5B in contracts

Lion's share

Aboveboard

Personal bias

Obsessive compulsive

Big 3 find ally in UA&P school of economics dean

Losing money

Some gas stations in Laguna reported to have closed

Day of protest



Pacquiao a 3-to-1 favorite in Las Vegas to beat Cotto

Tapering off

No weight problems

Weigh-in on Friday

'Wet against me'

Pacquiao strategy

Antismuggling group, PASG, accused: 'Kidnaps' cargo for 'ransom'

Leaders tagged

Breeding ground for crooks

Abolish PASG

Wanted: 50,000 techies to man election machines



Training in January

Nonpartisan hires



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Christmas has never been better with myDSL!
A laptop and gadget showcase will be given away to a lucky myDSL subscriber everyday, for 25 days! Plus, ₱125,000 in the final draw!
Simply register for FREE at www.pldtwatchpad.com to join. Existing Watchpad users need not register.
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watchpad

Aplus METRO

TWIN BLASTS IN QC, MANDALUYONG CITY

Police rule out terror angle

By DJ Yap and Nancy C. Carvajal

THE POLICE RULED OUT TERrorism as the motive in the explosion that rocked the headquarters of San Miguel Corp. (SMC) at Ortigas Center in Mandaluyong City on Monday morning, almost two hours before another blast occurred in Quezon City.

"Based on the investigation, we ruled out terrorism as the motive," Senior Supt. Carlos de Sagun, Mandaluyong police chief, said yesterday.

De Sagun said there had been no bomb threats against the food and beverage giant before Monday's incident.

He added that it would likely take a week before the crime laboratory could release its findings on the type of explosive used in the blast that damaged the sign bearing SMC's name in the compound located at the corner of San Miguel Drive and Doña Julia Vargas Avenue.

C4 or TNT

The official earlier said the explosive used could be C4 or TNT.

But De Sagun said terrorism could not have been the motive, considering the timing and the damage it had caused.

He noted that the blast occurred at 3:02 a.m. when the area was practically deserted, indicating that there had been no intention to inflict harm on anybody.

De Sagun said that about two weeks ago, San Miguel had been the object of a protest with regard to its proposal to build the Laiban Dam in Rizal province, but he noted the demonstration had been peaceful and orderly.

Meanwhile, the police said they were following up various leads in the explosion that took place in front of Puregold Supermarket on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, at around 4:50 a.m. on Monday.

Possibly business-related

"It could be business-related or linked to explosions in the past months," Supt. Ramon Abalos of the Quezon City Police District told the Inquirer.

Abalos said that just like previous explosions, including one that occurred in front of a condominium on Katipunan Avenue, no one had come forward to claim responsibility.

In June, improvised explosives were found at the Department of Agriculture office in Quezon City and at the Office of the Ombudsman.

According to Abalos, the explosive used in Monday's bombing was not military-issued.

"It's TNT where the components could be purchased by those involved in mining or in the demolition of buildings," he said.

DID YOU KNOW

THE FIRST foreign bank in the Philippines was the Hongkong Shanghai Bank, established in Binondo, Manila, on Nov. 11, 1875. The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. now has eight main branches in the country.

Inquirer Research

Judge acquits 2 men facing rape, slay raps

By Julie M. Aurelio

Beyond reasonable doubt

No head wound

12 eJeepneys start plying new Makati routes

By Niña Calleja



Climate solution

Cheaper in the long run

Lim officially declares team-up with Moreno for 2010

By Jeannette I. Andrade



Binay-Mercado or Mercado-Binay in 2010?

By Erika Sauler



READY FOR RESCUE MISSIONS

MetroBriefs

PLDT cuts call rates

Maito Sr.; 71

Lim …

NBI looking for robbers who killed prober

By Tina G. Santos

Mass for victim

3 robbers arrested

12 eJeepneys …



ORIGINAL PUTO PINULOT SA PEYSBUK

Thousands cheer 20 years since fall of Berlin Wall



World leaders hail Wall fall, pledge to topple new barriers





US accepts direct talks with NoKor

Apec ministers nix fiscal tightening

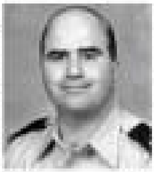
2 Korean navies trade gunfire

Abdul-Jabbar has rare form of leukemia



ABDUL-JABBAR

Fort Hood suspect contacted Islamist



HASAN

Abbas may quit if peace talks fail

9 executed over China's deadly ethnic riots



Iran accuses 3 detained Americans of espionage



A TRUCK lays buried in rubble in a residential area affected by flooding and mudslides in Verapaz, El Salvador on Monday.

Salvadoran town hit by landslide buries dead

Taipei probes ex-president's secret account in Palau

The WORLD

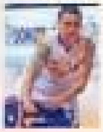
Analysts: Thaksin arrival could push Thailand, Cambodia to war

Thaksin visit fuels renewed tensions

PHNOM PENH—FUGItive former Thai premier Thaksin Shinawatra arrived in Cambodia to start work as a government economic advisor on Tuesday, fueling tensions after deadly clashes between the two countries.



Nasa debunks 2012 apocalypse myths



WHAT'S INSIDE

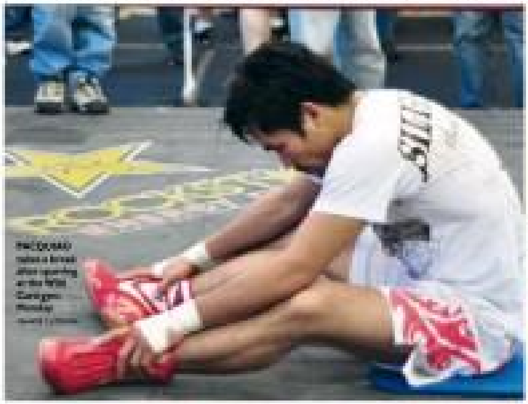
■ SMB faces Purefoods; TNT tackles Coca-Cola /A22

SPORTS



■ Spurs, Jazz, Hornets trounce opponents /A34

3 RP netters stumble as ITF Women's Circuit Week I starts



PACQUIAO



Pacquiao ready to go—Roach

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

'Manny the Bruce Lee of boxing'

By Francis T.J. Ochoa



Manila squads up in PCCL Manila zonals



SMB faces Purefoods; TNT tackles Coca-Cola



Thailand Tigers halt skid, whip KL Dragons

Sportswatch

UGRA 'Big Event' today

College hoops with imported goods

Heart, Soul, Sports

Mabuhay golf: Borja, Monsalve shine

Manny ...

Merchant sees it even



PSC readies case against Philsoc execs

By June Navarro

Cutoff date



Adamson nips FEU in 5 sets

St. Benilde subdues Ateneo

By Cedelf P. Tupas

The Yankees are back

ONE GAME AT A TIME

Sev Sarmenta

COACH BULPIN

PFF turns to Briton for redemption

By Cedelf P. Tupas

Quezon Red Oilers battle MP Warriors

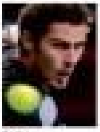
SPORTS



Suns shine with Nash

Spurs, Jazz , Hornets trounce opponents

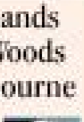
Safin gains one round extension



SAFIN



Thousands greet Woods in Melbourne



WOODS

IN THIS ISSUE

- Bank lending up 5.9% to P1.94T /B4
- RP's record rice tender pushing prices up /B6

BUSINESS

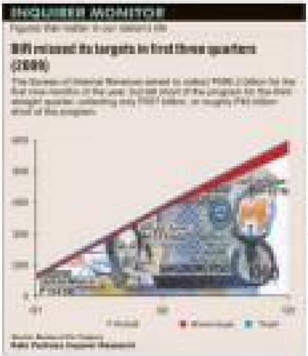


Exports still in decline, dipping by 18.3%

But freefall said to be over as shipments gained month-on-month

PHILIPPINE MERCHANDISE EXPORTS CONTINUED TO DECLINE in September, dropping 18.3 percent year-on-year to $3.634 billion, pulled down by a contraction in electronics shipments.

INQUIRER MONITOR



Market posts record close in 19 months



Gov't reports growth in domestic liquidity

Philex battle, Meralco style

Biz Buzz
By the staff

Good news: free lunch; bad news: no beef

Beauty pageant

The cubicles have ears (Part 2)

Wages up in Q2, so were job dismissals

Mining and quarrying sector shed 31% of its workforce

Exports still in decline …

Market posts …

Gov't reports …

Debunk WHO study, banana growers dare critics

Fungicide use does not cause health problems, sector claims

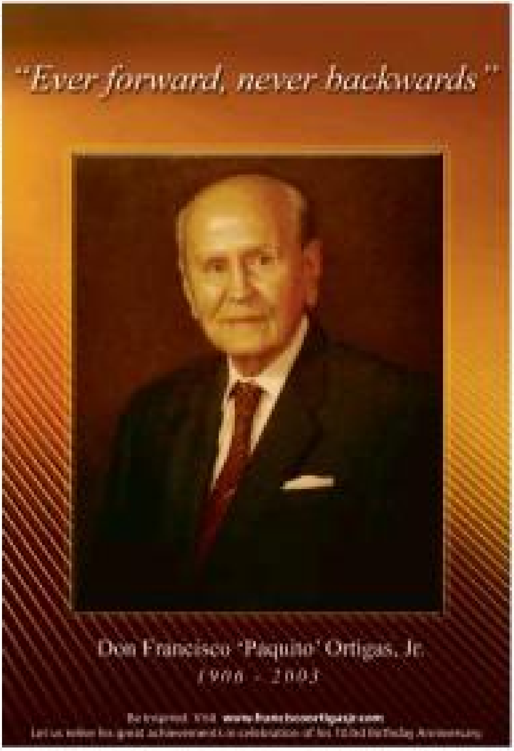
First Gen income as of Sept. plunges by 85% to $7M











Bank lending up 5.9% to P1.98T

Growth still slower than '08 levels

Fitch affirms BPI's ratings

MWC open to tie up with viable water project proponent

Five projects get incentives

DA moves to boost coffee industry

RP exporters earn $25M from Taiwan trade fairs





MPIC-FPH deal seen to foil hostile takeover attempts

MVP group's Meralco interest protected

By Doris C. Dumlao

Petron may defer fundraising plan

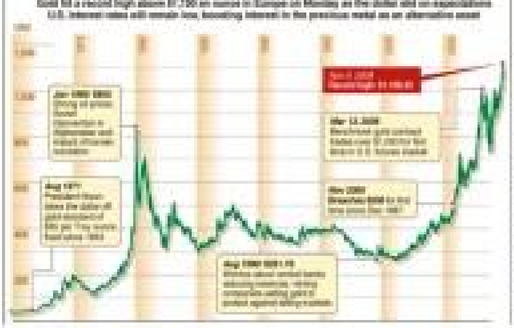
By Amy R. Remo



ALI seen offering Homestarter bonds worth ₱1B

Doris C. Dumlao

RECORD GOLD PRICE



Business

RP's record rice tender pushing prices up

Market mulls over 'serious shortage' in Philippines

Galoc oil field back to production mode

10% growth in bond sales expected in 2010

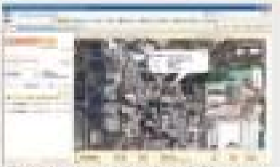
MOTORING

A feeling that somebody's watching you

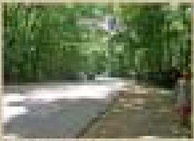
By Charles E. Buban



THE CONVOY FMS GPS unit is small enough to be placed anywhere inside the vehicle.

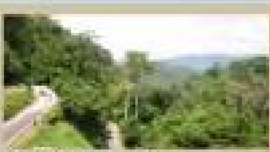


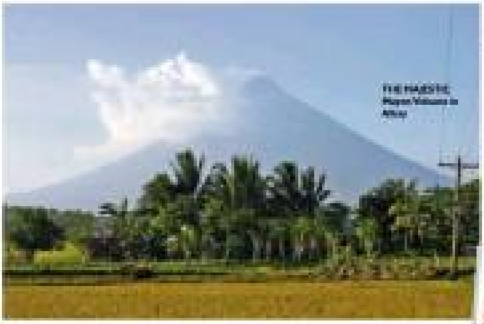
USING Google Maps as platform, Convoy FMS features a more detailed "picture" to help operators and fleet managers oversee their drivers.


A WINDING road in Samar

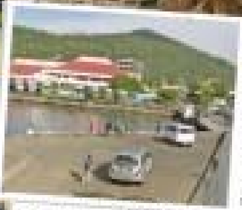

THE OLD capitol of Catbalogan


THE QUEZON National Park


THE FAMED Bitukang Manok in Quezon


THE MAJESTIC Mayon Volcano in Albay


REMNANTS of a landslide abound in Samar


THE ALTERRA gets off the ferry boat that brings vehicles, goods and people from Luzon to Visayas.

When country roads take you home

By Tita Arceo-Dumlao
Photos by Jerome C. Dumlao

FRONT SEAT

THERE ARE SOME TRIPS that most motorists feel they are better off not taking.

One of these stretches close to 1,000 kilometers and takes hardy travelers from the urban sprawl of Metro Manila down south to the sparsely populated rural empire that is Eastern Samar, one of three provinces that comprise Samar Island, the third largest in the Philippines.

Given the long journey through some of the best and worst stretches of the national highway, it is not really surprising that motorists would balk at the prospect of such a long road trip for all the bumps and such.

But then again it's one of the best ways to prove if the journey is indeed the destination.


THE HABAL-HABAL, typical mode of transportation in many parts of Samar

First, the provisions.

Before going on such a long trip, make sure that your vehicle is in top running condition, with oil and water levels checked, spare tire in place with tools, as vulcanizing shops would be few and far between outside the cities.

SUVs and SUVs such as the Isuzu Alterra with big tires are recommended as roads of all conditions await the motorist. Some sections will have a good asphalt overlay, others are just topped with gravel, and some concrete roads have such big ruts that ordinary sedans would have extreme difficulty driving over or around them.

Also, bring lots of water and tissue paper as, unfortunately, clean bathrooms are likewise hard to come by, although there are now more gasoline stations and restaurants along the way that should have a more decent class facilities.

Buy a map of Luzon and Visayas to give you an idea how far you are from the nearest gasoline station, and also bring lots of cash, credit cards are still unheard of in many parts of the Philippines.

CDs and DVDs should also be part of the must bring list. There really is nothing like listening to band singing, foot stomping rock and roll music while going down the country lanes and byways at 100 kilometers an hour.

And yes, don't forget the camera to document the scenes that will take your breath away and there are many, such as the old houses of Sariaya in Quezon, the old house at the Quezon National Park, the majesty of Mayon Volcano in Albay and the smaller Mt. Isarog in Sorsogon.


TYPICAL coastal road in Luzon

Then there are the rural scenes of farmers tilling their rice land, hard working carabaos with bayong at their side and fishermen in their bancas holding aloft their fresh catch of the day.

It is rare scenes like these that never fail to refresh your mind and ease your aching body after hours of driving, more so when taking tests of driving skills like maneuvering the Alterra into the ferry boat that takes people, cars, buses, trucks and motorcycles from the port of Matnog in Sorsogon—the end of Luzon—to the port of Allen in Northern Samar.

Tourists are advised against getting the vehicle on themselves as sometimes, you can't even wedge a handbag between two cars or between the car and the side of the ferry boat.

As for how to properly drive into the boat, you'll just have to put your full trust in the bakers who enthusiastically shout their instructions on where and how you should steer your car to fit into the packed ferry boat.

Power steering and a responsive brake like those of the Alterra have never been more necessary.

More driving tests await motorists as they emerge from the 1 and a half hour ferry boat trip to Samar, as bad roads are up ahead, although there has been a significant improvement in the state of the highway from Allen to the capital of Calbayog and Catbalogan in Samar, although still a lot to be desired.

Potholes, road cuts and the occasional massive boulders are all par for the course, which again illustrates why most motorists fear to tread Samar roads. One wrong turn, and you may end up in a ravine.

Such challenges, however, only make the journey more memorable.

And after 22 hours of driving through country roads, you could say that you have seen the Philippines in a way that very few others have or ever will.



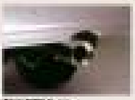
2009 Isuzu Alterra Highlights

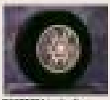

MULTIPURPOSE AV console for gadgets.


CHROMED exterior and interior handles.


EURO III-compliant diesel engine.


CHROMED power folding sideminor with turn light.


TAILPIPE finisher

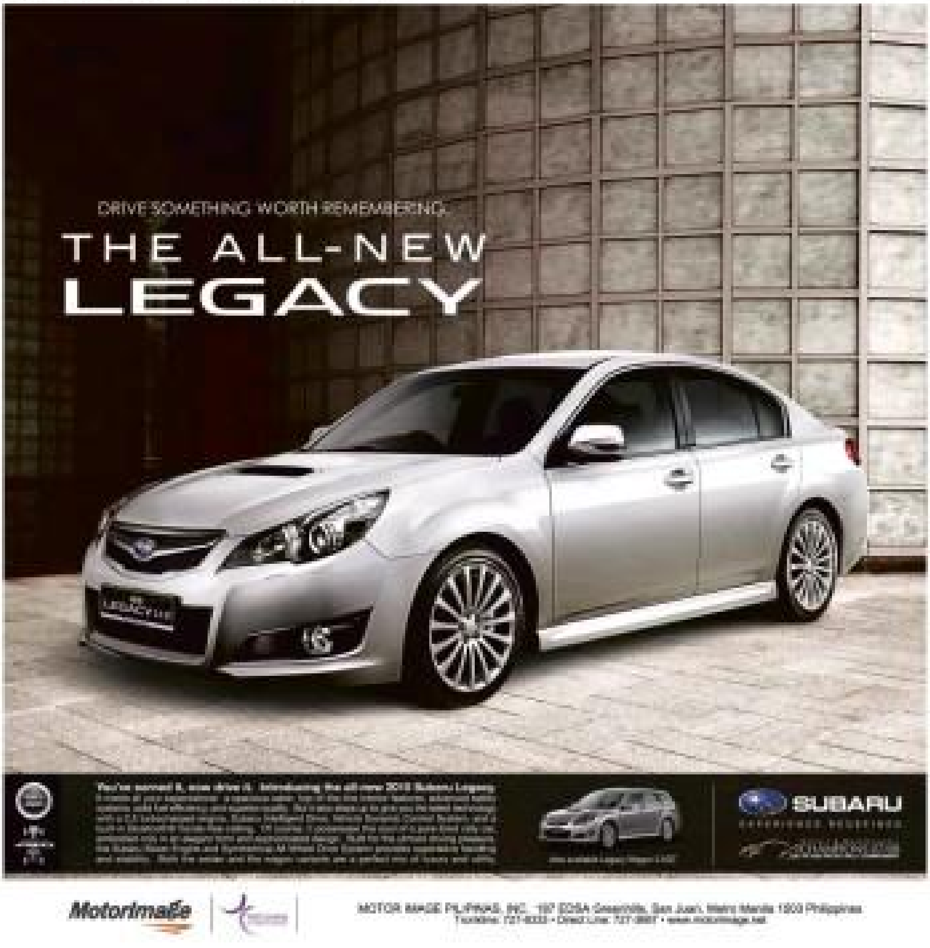

SIXTEEN inch alloy wheels.

Ford updates Escape lineup for 2010



A feeling that...





Electric or Hybrid? The Green future

ON THE ROAD





THE 2.4-LITER luxury hybrid Sai.

New tech

Infrastructure

MOTORING

It's a bus, it's a jeep, it's the BEEP!

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines, Corp. is teaming up with 109-year-old Almazora Motors Corp., a known builder of MMPC's L300 utility van body as well as various bus and truck bodies, for the manufacture of the BEEP, a morphed "bus-jeep" patterned after the European Gruau microbus



COMMUTING CLASS of 2009, let's sit down and review. Between a PUJ and a PUB, which is better?

[illegible]

The jeepney can be seen, and hailed, anywhere.

[illegible]

Key features of the BEEP

1. The BEEP RIDES ON the Fuso Canter 4-wheeler truck chassis. The engine complies with the current Euro emission standard.
2. Ergonomically-placed steering wheel, shift knob and center instrument panel controls
3. Spacious interior and large door openings that offer passengers ease and comfort
4. High roof and wrap around clear window styling makes the interior roomier and lessens the blind spots.
5. Functional seating layout with bench type seats, vertical and horizontal grab handles
6. Ceiling mounted air conditioner vents for relaxing ride.

2009 FE519 BEEP SPECIFICATION

DIMENSIONS		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ENGINE		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TRANSMISSION		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CHASSIS		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
OTHERS		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]



It's a bus, it's a jeep, it's the BEEP!

[illegible]



THE BEEP rides on the Fuso Canter 4-wheeler truck chassis.



FUNCTIONAL seating layout with bench type seats, vertical and horizontal grab handles

[illegible]



ERGONOMICALLY-placed steering wheel, shift knob and center instrument panel controls

[illegible]



SPACIOUS interior and large door openings that offer passengers ease and comfort.



THE BEEP has a passenger capacity of 28.

Toyota joins departures



Manila Auto Salon slated Nov. 26-29



READY for the world's best

Malaysia stint for Team Land Rover



Chevy to fire off Cruze craze

AUTO FILES

Fast cars, fast turnovers

Buyers' right to know

Toyota's new "F" word

CNG investors regret

100,000 makes it a 'Civic Republic'

Zoom in two







FORD FREEDOM FEST

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan · Contributing Editor Liza S. Bernardo

LIFESTYLE *Parenting*



MANNY Pacquiao with pet Pacman

The real 'Pacman' is cute and cuddly

Boxing champ Manny Pacquiao and other celebrities relieve stress by doting on their pet dogs

WHAT DO AN INternational boxing champ, a fashion model, an animal rights advocate, a baker, and a versatile actress and TV host have in common? Their best buddies are their pet dogs—Bow & Wow has found out. It's an "all-natural pet foods" store, 5th level of Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City.

Pacman is the two-year-old male Jack Russell Terrier of boxing champ Manny Pacquiao.

Given as a gift to Manny Pacquiao in the US, Pacman (who lives in LA) wakes up his master early in the morning.

Pacman is a well-trained dog who has a gregarious personality. He loves to "shake hands" with his master and likes jumping up and down.

"Pacman can express affectionate gestures that connote that he's sorry when I scold him," said Pacquiao. He can be as strong-willed as Manny, and has a fearless and happy disposition.

A working breed, Pacman is in his element when jogging and accompanying Pacquiao during training. He joined Manny in Las Vegas during the Pac-

THE REAL, C1

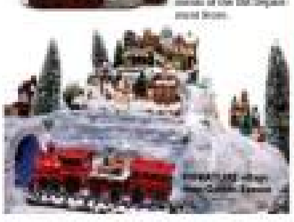
Build your own Christmas village



THE GOLDEN Swing from Lemax



GOLDEN Season's Christmas tree village



ADD A TOUCH OF postcard pretty nostalgia to your home with Christmas Village décor.

SM Homeworld, the Christmas store, has pieces for Winter Wonderland, which evokes the wonderful days of Christmases past—houses, chapels, bakeshops, toy stores, flea markets, trains, and villagers in a lighthearted holiday mood.

It's a fun activity one can enjoy with the rest of the family for this Christmas and years to come. The Christmas Village collection is available at selected Homeworld Departments of the SM Department stores.









"LADY" Gaga

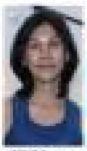


Catholic Women's Club to hold fundraiser at the mall



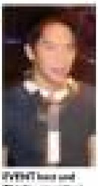




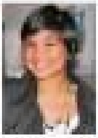




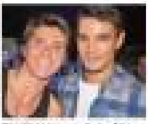












THE INVITE READ, "WHY ... this Hallow's Eve, when you can be absolutely fabulous? Come as your favorite ... and celebrate with us like the ... that you are!"

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH



Unlimited partying









Levi's Fall/Winter collection

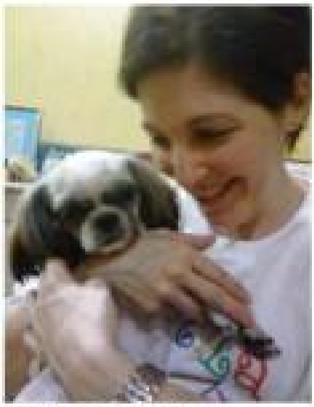
Memories in watercolor

Clothes for a cause





The real 'Pacman' is cute and cuddly



JACKIE Lou Blanco with pet Chocoball



MARIVIC Baldon-Carag with pet Sago

From page C1

...with Miguel Cotto of Puerto Rico.

Playful pets



ISABEL Roces with pet Zelda

The Gustavian Restaurant and Delicatessen

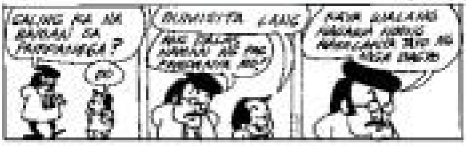




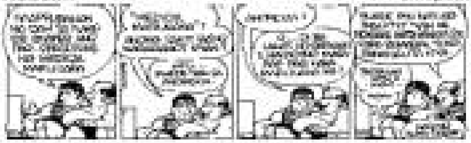
GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS



A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA



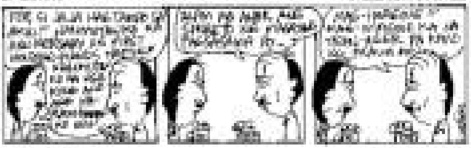
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR



DICK TRACY



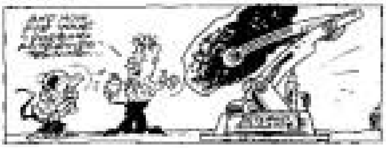
LOVELINOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



JAMES BOND

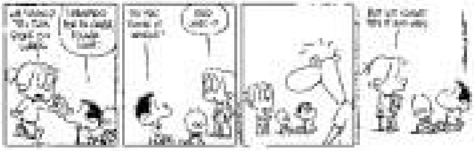


DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOW TO PREPARE YOURSELF FOR DECEMBER 21, 2012

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT



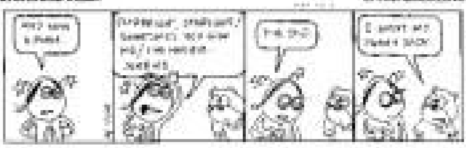
TULDOK BY MARIA COLL



BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON



ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LEIA GARCELLANO



KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA



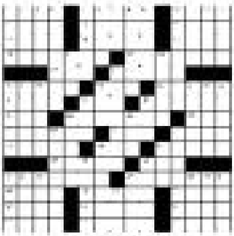
HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

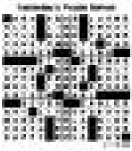
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

DOWN



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved



CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	7	6				2	4	
1			2		7			8
2			6		4			7
3			4		9			5
	4	1	5			6	8	9
			1					4
			9					2
9			3		5			6
	6	5				8	9	

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Answer to previous puzzle

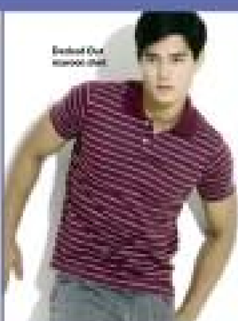
8	3	5	6	1	9	4	2	7
1	4	2	7	5	8	3	9	6
7	6	9	4	3	2	1	5	8
4	7	8	5	2	6	9	3	1
2	9	6	1	8	3	7	4	5
5	1	3	9	4	7	6	8	2
3	5	4	2	7	1	8	6	9
6	2	7	8	9	4	5	1	3
9	8	1	3	6	5	2	7	4

Seeing Stripes



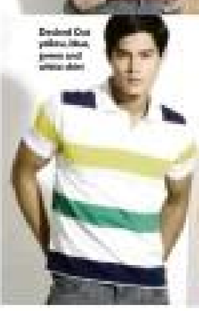
Which stripes are you?



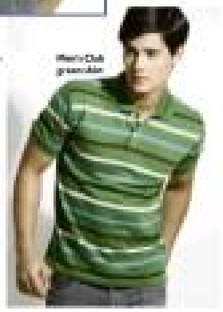


SM Department Store gives a wide array of striped shirts designs and colors, suited to every style choice available at the Men's wear department.









PRIVADO

One day Exclusive Luxury SALE

Branded Eyewear · Branded Watches

13th of November

10am to 10pm

One Esplanade

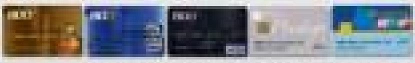
Bay Blvd., SM Central Business Park
Bay City (near Mall of Asia)

Up to 50% off on all items

Additional 20% discount when you use your BDO credit cards
or when you present your BDO Rewards card
SM Advantage or SM Prestige card

0% interest on a minimum purchase of Php 3,000, up to 6 months installment
on all major credit cards.

2010 Spring Summer Collection on auction



All other major cards accepted.

Adidas
Armani Exchange
Arnette
Axis
Blue Bay
Bulgari
Burberry
Calvin Klein
Carolina Herrera
Carrera
Caterpillar
Celine
Celine Dion
Christian Dior
CK
Cour Carré
D&G
Davidoff
DKNY
Dolce & Gabbana

Donna Karan
Elizabeth Arden
Elle
Emporio Armani
Esprit
Everlast
Fendi
Ferragamo
Fornarina
Gianfranco Ferré
Giordano
Girbaud
Givenchy
Gucci
Guess
Hackett
Jaguar
Jean Paul Gaultier
Jill Stuart
Just Cavalli

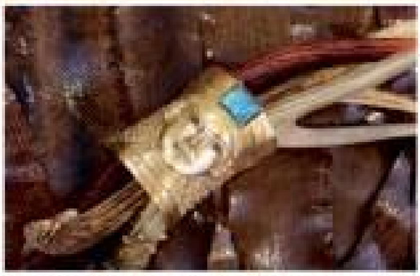
Kenneth Cole
Kenzo
Killer Loop
K-Swiss
Lacoste
Levi's
Lulu Guinness
Mango
Max Mara
Michael Kors
Miss Sixty
Miu Miu
Montblanc
Moschino
Nautica
Oliver
Oscar dela Renta
Pierre Cardin
Pepe Jeans
Police

Prada
Ralph Lauren
Ray Ban
Replay Eyes
Revlon
Roberto Cavalli
Shanghai Tang
Tag Heuer
Timberland
Timex
Tommy Hilfiger
Versace
Versus
Vogue
YSL

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

LIFESTYLE Home & Entertaining





ARTIST Tonny 'Bruno' ... painting, "The Last Orange," dominates the foyer, adorned with [illegible] pedestals and an earthenware jar.

[illegible], goddess of love and ..., on the cuff, adorned with a square [illegible] and sapphire beads

'I believe the space we make becomes who we are'

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

FOR SO LONG, JEWELry and accessories designer Wynn Wynn Ong was working from—or out of—her residence, and traveling a lot to her workshop.

But working at home can limit one's productivity, while a workshop in a distant place leaves a lot of carbon footprint.

Finally, Ong has found an atelier in Makati she has transformed into an extension of her home. As the choice of color, furniture, accessories and artwork reflects her personality, her workspace nourishes the soul and stimulates creativity.

"My studio is private. It was created as a personal space where I can quietly focus on designing and making my pieces. The only people allowed are close friends, and access is purely by invitation," she says.

The color scheme is largely neutral, such as pale [illegible], which expresses her meditative side.

The [illegible] of outstanding [illegible] tones such as mocha and her trademark aubergine accent wall convey Ong's hands-on and exacting personality.

For warmth, she introduced natural materials such as [illegible] pedestals and [illegible] laminated cabinets, metal and glass tables and terra cotta carvings. There's a lot of natural light mixed with bulbs that mimic daylight for a more inviting scheme, and gallery lights for her huge artworks.

"Having heavy machinery here isn't a reason for not having an attractive office," she says. Also, "I believe the space we make becomes who we are."

Sacred corner

There are expressions of sincerely held religious beliefs. A sacred corner is dressed in gold and terra cotta statues of Buddha, her guardian, Kuan Yin, the goddess of love, prosperity and mercy, and a small ...

TURN TO D3

‘I believe the space we make becomes who we are



TEA SETTING [illegible]



FALCON [illegible]



SACRED [illegible]

[illegible]

Home ware

[illegible]

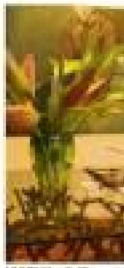


PAINTING [illegible]

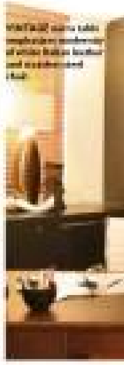
[illegible]

Jewelry exhibit

[illegible]



UNUSUAL [illegible]



VINTAGE [illegible]

The lowly ‘nganga’ palm—as Christmas decor

[illegible]

Use it as foil and accent for holiday centerpieces

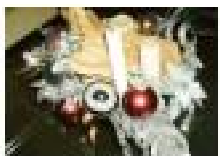


WHEN dried, [illegible]



MAKE [illegible]

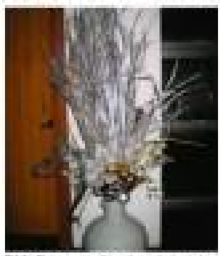
[illegible]



THE CENTERPIECE [illegible]

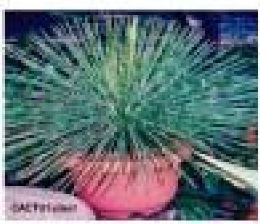


COMBINE [illegible]



THIS “Christmas tree” [illegible]

Environmental flower and garden show



CACTUS [illegible]

[illegible]

Yoga center holds workshop on correct action



[illegible]







Do-it-yourself

Use colors and multi-shaped vases

D.I.Y.

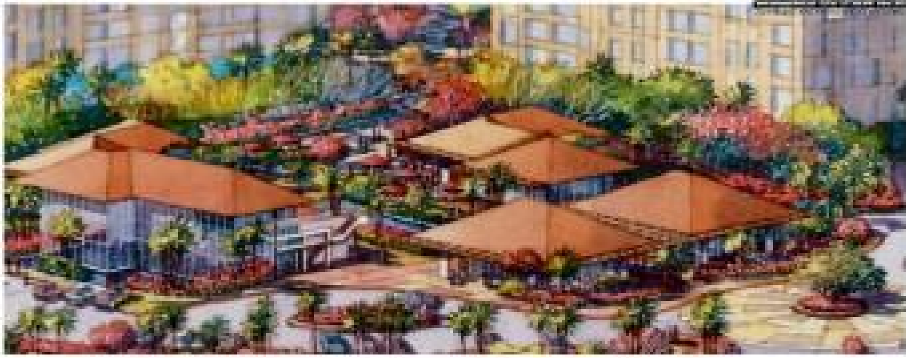


Fruit centerpiece for Thanksgiving

Take it from the Chefs

Renowned culinary experts share healthy and delicious recipes in Rustan's 2010 recipe planner





The Grove's Community Center

The Newest Events Destination in Ortigas



The family barbecue and picnic pavilion area.

The 70:30 landscape-to-building ratio will be a milestone in itself. The Grove by Rockwell promises a sprawling urban oasis with miles of green to walk on, and less concrete to block your path. Rockwell is serious about the resort theme by having multi-level pools and cocktail islands, koi ponds, a jogging trail, a children's play area and a family barbecue and picnic pavilion.

All that is in the works, including The Grove Community Center. The Community Center will soon be open for gatherings, from the intimate to the elaborate.

Ortigas usually poses a challenge to people and organizations who seek venues beyond the four-walled function rooms. The Grove will fill the need for a more refreshing and relaxing destination for family celebrations and other corporate events with its two-floor set-up. The first floor is designed as a main reception area; the rooftop as the more laid-back event area. In all, the Center can accommodate 200 revelers.

Or you can choose to hold your function over at The Grove's Gazebos, air-conditioned or al fresco. Picture the harmony of wooden structures and a lush tropical setting for a garden reception or any whimsically themed celebration, made more enchanting by the cool breeze. The Gazebos can take in up to 120 guests each.

At The Grove Community Center, there are more reasons any anxious events organizer would be delighted about. The venue may be reserved on a daily basis, not half-day or hourly, giving people more time to dress up the venue to their liking. The structure also easily allows for modifications in stage and ceiling design treatments. Caterers and other suppliers may be brought in at no extra costs.

The Ortigas lifestyle, its rituals and regimen will soon change as The Grove completes a delicious "tropicale", Rockwell style. Come and have a bite of it soon with The Grove Community Center.

For details and inquiries, contact Paula Peralta at **793-0088.**

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor: Bayani San Diego Jr.

Janice unleashes mouthful vs John



JANICE de Belen on John Estrada: "We were never friends."

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A JOYOUS birthday celebration for Janice de Belen on GMA-7's morning show "SiS" on Monday.

Instead, the TV host-actress, who marked her 41st birthday on Monday, unleashed a mouthful against ex-husband John Estrada.

A source said Janice's remarks were a reaction to John's comments about her parenting style.

In an SMS sent to Inquirer Entertainment, Janice noted, "I would like whatever statements I made today (on the show) to be left as is."

In a sit-down interview conducted by guest Rocky Robinson on "SiS," Janice explained that she had declined previous requests to talk about the issue. She said it all started with a "status item" she wrote on her Facebook account.

Janice proceeded to recount what she posted online, supposedly addressed to John: "It is difficult to understand what

JANICE B5

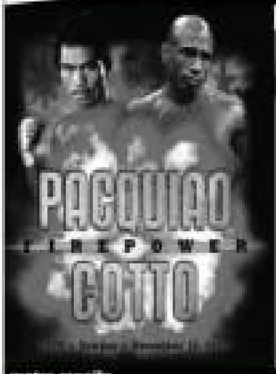
'It was you who committed adultery... Is child support hard to comprehend?'

Two movies win top prizes in Brussels

—Bayani San Diego Jr.

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MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

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ERMITA

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5 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
6 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN
7 PATIENT X

METRO EAST

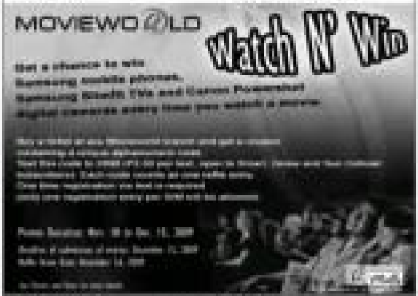
1 ASTROBOY
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NOVALICHES

1 ALL ABOUT STEVE
2 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
3 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
4 PATIENT X

PIONEER

1 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
2 ALL ABOUT STEVE
3 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
4 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN



STA. ROSA

1 PATIENT X
2 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
3 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
4 ALL ABOUT STEVE

LIPA

1 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN
2 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
3 HALLOWEEN 2
4 ANG TANGING PAMILYA

DASMARIÑAS

1 PATIENT X
2 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
3 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
4 SORORITY ROW

IMUS

1 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
2 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN
3 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
4 PATIENT X

STARMILLS

1 PATIENT X
2 SALAT
3 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
4 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
5 SORORITY ROW
6 THE FINAL DESTINATION

ANGELES

1 PATIENT X
2 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
3 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN
4 ANG TANGING PAMILYA

TACLOBAN

1 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
2 PATIENT X
3 THE ECHO

BACOLOD

1 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
2 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
3 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
4 HALLOWEEN 2
5 FAME
6 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN

ILOILO

1 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
2 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN
3 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
4 HALLOWEEN 2
5 RED CLIFF
6 ALL ABOUT STEVE

GEN. SANTOS (NOW OPEN!)

1 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
2 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
3 THE ECHO
4 PATIENT X



Typhoon donations gambled away

By the Entertainment staff

[illegible]

Look who's eyeing TV 5

[illegible]

Wisely hooked up

[illegible]

Cry baby

[illegible]

Bizarre triangle

[illegible]

MMFF entry pulls out

[illegible]



SARAH Geronimo

Top of the talk shows

[illegible]

Erik, Sitti sing for a cause

SHOW TIME

[illegible]

Opening This Week

Hellphone

[illegible]



Ang Tanging Pamilya (A Marry-Go-Round)

[illegible]

2012

[illegible]

Janice unleashes…

[illegible]

Friends? Never!

[illegible]

Carla, Geoff caught... kissing

DOLLY WOOD



Dolly Anne Carvajal

[illegible]

Laugh trip

[illegible]

It's 'Showtime'

[illegible]



CARLA Abellana and Geoff Eigenmann



